

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1, 3-5, and 7-17, of which claims 1, 5, 16, and 17 are independent. Claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. Claims 16 and 17 are newly added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant has amended the abstract to eliminate legal phraseology and otherwise place the abstract in proper form. Applicant has also amended the title so that it is more indicative of the claimed invention. Withdrawal of the objections to the specification are respectfully sought.

Applicant submits herewith replacement drawings which label Figures 6 and 7 as --Prior Art--. It is respectfully submitted that with the submission of these replacement sheets, the objection to the drawings have been overcome.

Applicant has also addressed the objections to the claims, and specifically to claim 11 by eliminating the whereby statement. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully sought.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation, the Examiner's indication, inter alia, that claims 2, 6, 7, and 8 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As the Examiner will appreciate, independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 6, respectively, and are therefore deemed to be in condition for allowance.

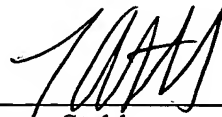
New independent claims 16 and 17 are believed to correspond to claims 7 and 8, respectively, each of which were identified as reciting patentable subject matter. It is therefore respectfully submitted that new independent claims 16 and 17 are patentable over the art of record and in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above discussed claims. Accordingly, each of those claims is patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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